

U.S. Senator George V. Voinovich

Report on the 106th Congress



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Report on the 106th Congress, 1999-2000

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Senator George V. Voinovich

Report on the 106th Congress, 1999-2000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Putting Ohio First

For Senator George Voinovich, serving in the United States Senate is more than casting votes in Washington, it's about helping Ohioans in the communities where they live, work and learn everyday. That might mean writing and passing legislation or working behind the scenes to shape a bill—or to block one, but it also means working with Ohioans to help make government work for them. The common question, however, always is, “how does it help Ohio?” For Voinovich, it's about making a difference in the lives of his fellow Ohioans, a commitment he's had since first being elected to the Ohio General Assembly in 1966.

Fiscal Responsibility

That government should work harder and smarter and do more with less is the fundamental driving principle of Senator George Voinovich's public service career.

Debt Reduction—PASSED

Voinovich cemented his reputation as a leading “debt hawk” by doggedly pursuing the issue and helping to win more than \$240 billion in debt reduction in 1999-2000.

The Social Security Lockbox—PASSED

Lock Box legislation was included in the FY 2000 Budget Resolution with the help of Voinovich. Continued work on the Lock Box lays the foundation for binding legislation to protect the Social Security Trust Fund.

DOE/Beryllium Workers—PASSED

Voinovich was a leader in the effort to win compensation for Cold War-era defense workers wrongfully made ill as a result of federal government irresponsibility and negligence. He considers this one of his most significant accomplishments in the Senate to date.

Reforming Federal Human Capital Management

With a reputation for attention to management as mayor of Cleveland and governor of Ohio, Voinovich took up federal workforce management issues as chairman of the Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management. Voinovich's efforts on this unsung but critical issue earned him praise from many corners and recognition within the government management community as a leader on these issues.

An Impact on Agencies

After Voinovich held hearings on federal workforce management, the President instructed agencies to incorporate human resource management goals in their annual performance plans and asked the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to write guidelines on how to incorporate human resources goals in

to agencies' annual performance plans.

Recommendations for the President-Elect

In December 2000 Voinovich released recommendations to the president-elect on how to improve federal human capital management.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base/ Department of Defense Workforce Reshaping–PASSED

In keeping with Senator Voinovich's concerns with federal workforce issues, he helped win passage of legislation to guarantee our civilian military workforce is world class by providing the necessary management tools to recruit and retain skilled workers.

Federalism: Moving Government Closer to The People

As an official with both a state and local government background, Senator Voinovich has seen how the heavy hand of the federal government can impede the efforts of states and communities to serve their citizens in the way they know is best. When defining the role of government in our society, Voinovich believes we should ask two questions: "what should government do?" and "what level of government should do it?"

Tobacco Recoupment–PASSED

Voinovich's first bill was to block a federal grab of the state's \$246 billion settlement with tobacco companies. He helped lead the successful effort to block this move, which secured an expected \$10.1 billion over the next 25 years.

Grants Management Reform–Voinovich Carries On A Glenn Cause–PASSED

Senator Voinovich continued the work that former Senator John Glenn (D-OH) began in the 105th Congress when he reintroduced S. 468, the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act. The legislation directs each federal agency to develop and implement a plan to streamline and simplify the application, administrative and reporting procedures for federal financial assistance programs.

Ed Flex: Cutting the Ties that Bind State Education Efforts–PASSED

As governor of Ohio, Voinovich worked to end federal interference with state and local education efforts. He continued this effort in the Senate and saw its culmination in April 1999, as the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999 (Ed-Flex) was signed into law.

Southeast Europe

Senator Voinovich has played a leading role in shaping and implementing our nation's policy towards the Balkans in order to promote stability in the region, continue America's commitment to peace and engage the international community.

Florida Everglades–PASSED

After substantial dike and canal projects in the mid-1900's began draining the Everglades to fuel development in South Florida, this national treasure shrank to half its former size and suffered significant environmental damage. As chairman of the subcommittee with oversight of the Army Corps of Engineers, the agency responsible for overseeing the restoration, Voinovich worked with the Natural Resources

Defense Council and the Sierra Club to guide the steps towards its \$7.8 billion restoration.

Senator George V. Voinovich **Report on the 106th Congress, 1999-2000**

SERVING OHIO FIRST

Listening and Serving

Senator George Voinovich lives in the same Cleveland neighborhood where he grew up and returns to Ohio almost every weekend. His top priority is to meet with Ohioans and learn firsthand what are their thoughts and needs. Whether it's holding hearings in Nelsonville on the needs of Appalachia, meeting with workers at Piketon's uranium plant, roundtable discussions with agriculture leaders, visiting Central State University to learn about the school's new master plan, touring the GM Powertrain plant in Defiance, or meeting with big city leaders on how to improve schools, infrastructure and neighborhoods, Voinovich keeps a busy schedule criss-crossing Ohio to be accessible to the people he serves.

Reaching Out and Staying in Touch

Voinovich has an active statewide presence through five regional representatives located in four offices across Ohio. These members of Voinovich's outreach team regularly travel throughout the state to work with local community leaders to see how the federal government can help them implement local solutions to local problems. Ohioans meet personally with outreach team members during office hours held in each one of Ohio's 88 counties every year.

Often representing Voinovich at community meetings when the Senate is in session, his Ohio outreach team regularly—sometimes hourly—communicates back to the Senator the progress of key projects and the thoughts and views of those with whom they meet.

Helping Ohioans Solve Problems

Two senators fighting for you are better than one, which is why Voinovich teamed up with U.S. Senator Mike DeWine—Ohio's senior senator—to form a joint office to work on problems that Ohioans have with federal agencies and programs. The joint operation also helps save Ohioans time and money trying to contact both senators, and saves office space and personnel costs. It is evidence of Voinovich's continued commitment to working harder and smarter and doing more with less.

All cases are worked jointly by the two senators and all letters on behalf of Ohioans to government agencies bear both senator's signatures. During the 106th Congress the office worked on more than 7,800 cases for Ohioans and responded to more than 24,000 letters.

Comments on Joint Casework Office

“Your idea of a joint casework staff will eliminate...duplication and result in a cost savings to the Department of Veterans Affairs,” (Phillip J. Ross, director of the Veterans Affairs regional office) Ross said.

“The office also saves money. The senators estimate that by combining staffs, they save \$80,000 a year in salaries.”

DeWine-Voinovich teamwork paying off: Only in Ohio and Missouri do both U.S. senators share an office for constituent matters.

(The Columbus Dispatch, June 4, 2000)

“The partnership benefits Ohioans. Not only will DeWine and Voinovich generate double the clout in solving problems that people have with federal agencies, but they also will create an economy of shared function. Instead of having two constituent offices, they’ll have one – in Columbus. And it will be as close as the telephone.”

Senatorial helpmates

(Akron Beacon Journal, April 4, 1999)

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

A Focus on Debt Reduction

Senator George Voinovich emerged from the 106th Congress as a leading “debt hawk” for his determination to focus the Senate’s attention on the need to begin paying down the massive \$5.7 trillion national debt. Although current economic forecasts predict a cumulative on-budget surplus of up to \$2.2 trillion over the next decade, the size of the debt still overshadows this amount. This debt costs the American taxpayer \$224 billion a year in interest payments alone, which is more than the nation spends on Medicare.

A Novel Approach: Dedicate the Surplus for Debt Reduction

During debate on the FY 2000 and 2001 Budget Resolutions, Voinovich offered an amendment to direct any on-budget surplus toward the debt. While the amendment ultimately was not approved, it successfully provided the groundwork for a novel approach that the senator used targeting the surpluses in FY 2000.

During the second session of the 106th Congress, Voinovich and Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) offered an amendment to the FY 2001 Transportation Appropriations bill, to dedicate \$12 billion of the FY 2000 surplus to debt repayment. The amendment passed with an overwhelming majority, 95-3, and committed Congress to specifically utilize on-budget surpluses to reduce the national debt, protecting these funds from being used for additional government spending. This was an unprecedented tactic and provided the mechanism to assure that Congress will begin the serious task of paying down the debt. When FY 2000 ended on Sept. 30, \$87 billion of the on-budget surplus was sent towards paying down the national debt. As a percentage of gross domestic product, it is the largest on-budget surplus the federal government has achieved since 1951. For FY 2001, thanks to the novel approach taken by Voinovich and Allard, Congress has already successfully appropriated \$240 billion in debt reduction altogether in 1999-2000.

Through this vigilance, and by casting votes and taking positions sometimes unpopular with Senate leadership, Voinovich has assured that spending by Congress and the president will not go completely unchecked or unnoticed. However, in spite of these efforts, Congress will still spend an estimated 12.3 percent more in FY 2001 than in FY 2000 non-defense discretionary spending.

The Social Security Lock Box

Voinovich is a strong and ardent supporter of the Social Security Lock Box, a precursor to binding legislation to protect the Social Security Trust Fund, and worked successfully to have it included in the FY 2000 Budget Resolution.

Budget Reform

Additionally, over the course of the first session, the senator realized that the budget process itself needed to be reformed. Towards that end, the senator cosponsored legislation to improve the annual budget-writing process including a balanced budget amendment and a two-year budget requirement. This will continue to be an area of interest for Voinovich.

Budget Points of Order

Voinovich helped lead the fight to implement three new points-of-order to help control spending during the debate on the FY 2001 Budget Resolution:

- < A point of order against advanced appropriations in excess of \$23 billion;
- < A point of order against delayed obligations (shifting outlays into the next fiscal year);
- < A defense firewall to prevent defense money from being used for increases in non-defense discretionary spending.

Reforming Federal Human Capital Management

Building on his work as governor of Ohio to improve the quality of management in public service, Voinovich used his chairmanship of the Government Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management to draw attention to human capital management needs in the federal workforce, particularly the need to empower federal employees and prepare for the looming wave of federal employee retirements.

Voinovich's efforts on this unsung but critical issue earned him praise from many corners and recognition within the government management community as a leader on these issues.

Moreover, the President incorporated the theme of Voinovich's hearings in a memo sent to federal agency heads on June 12, 2000 instructing them to incorporate human resource management goals in their annual performance plans beginning in October of this year. The memo went on to state the importance of making human resources management a priority in planning and budgeting and asked the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to write guidelines on how to incorporate human resources goals in to agencies' annual performance plans.

Recommendations for the President-Elect

On December 4, Voinovich released recommendations from his Government Oversight subcommittee to the president-elect on how to improve federal human capital management. Based on the subcommittee's six hearings and several General Accounting Office (GAO) reports commissioned by Voinovich during the 106th Congress, the recommendations included criteria to insure political appointees have adequate management skills, and two questionnaires that will assist the Senate in its constitutional role of confirming nominees.

Voinovich was successful in amending the Presidential Transition Act Amendments, introduced by Senator Fred Thompson (R-TN), to allow key appointees to in cabinet agencies and the executive office of the president to receive training in human capital and results-oriented management. This legislation was passed by both the House and the Senate and became law on October 12.

Practicing What He Preaches: The Voinovich-DeWine Joint Casework Office

In order to save the taxpayers' money and improve service to constituents, Voinovich operates a joint constituent casework office in Columbus with U.S. Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH) to review requests from constituents in need of assistance with various federal government agencies. This joint operation has made more efficient the interactions between citizens and federal agencies by eliminating potential duplication, while also providing a more timely, responsive and user-friendly office for the general public.

Comments on Voinovich's Fiscal Efforts

"Anybody who ever has balanced a checkbook knows the giddy delight that comes when the arithmetic leads to a higher-than-expected positive balance. But spending that windfall before double-checking the calculations to make sure it's real would be foolish.

"That same giddiness is at work when lawmakers and voters believe – or pretend to believe – that the government suddenly is flush with cash.

"But Voinovich has checked the arithmetic. There is no windfall. And the nation had better face that fact now rather than later."

Common Cents: Voinovich speech nails budget trickery

(The Columbus Dispatch - March 14, 1999)

"Voinovich might be right. But "Senator Debt Hawk" probably won't win the award for most popular senator. That doesn't appear likely to keep Voinovich from making his self-appointed rounds, tolling the bell of fiscal responsibility before an increasingly deaf Congress and administration."

Voinovich quickly makes debt his target

(Jonathan Riskind, The Columbus Dispatch - March 14, 1999)

"Voinovich has the quaint notion that the nation ought to reduce its debt rather than cut taxes or increase spending. He has shown he will stand by that notion, even if it means voting against a politically popular bill. For that, Voinovich deserves a combat medal, or maybe a purple heart."

Voinovich stakes out unpopular territory

(The Elyria Chronicle Telegram - March 18, 1999)

"There's an old saying most of us learned as children that goes, 'If it sounds too good to be true, then it is,' "Voinovich told the Senate during the tax debate. "The news we've been hearing about bigger-than-expected budget surpluses for the next 10 to 15 years is precisely that: too good to be true." Except on paper, he added there is "no budget surplus."

"Not that his words had much impact. His reputation as a tax cut skeptic preceded his arrival in Washington, so his arguments came as no surprise. And most of his GOP colleagues were in no mood to heed such dispiriting talk from Voinovich, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan or anyone else who urged caution in reducing taxes.

"It's just incredible to me," the low-key, plain-spoken Voinovich said later in an interview. "I really feel like I'm in another world." In a way, he is.

"Voinovich is a throwback to the old orthodoxy of Republican conservatives who gave top priority to balanced budgets and debt reduction, and he is clearly out of step with his party's new orthodoxy of tax cutting. What's more, he doesn't seem to care much."

Voinovich stays true to form: Ohioan refuses to use hypothetical surplus to cut taxes

(The Washington Post, August 6, 1999)

"If Voinovich wants the surplus used to help pay down the government's massive, it can hardly be called a liberal trait. It isn't even moderate. It could be even old-line, orthodox, Republican conservative thinking.

"Who is right and who is wrong about tax cutting? Everybody has an opinion, but nobody knows for

sure. When in doubt, you can always follow your conscience. That's what the junior senator from Ohio does, even if it gives some of his fellow Republicans apoplexy."

Voinovich asserts his independence - again

(*The Willoughby News Herald* - August 10, 1999)

"Voinovich has been the steadiest head in the summer of silliness on Capitol Hill. He recognizes the folly of cutting taxes, the flim-flam of President Clinton, the unaddressed problems of Social Security and Medicare. He grasps the fiction of (House Speaker) Hastert and friends.

"What fiction? Well, take the three dollars the speaker featured. The surpluses that he has in mind do not yet exist. They involve projections, of unprecedented and continuous economic growth. Worse, they require an additional assumption, that Congress will follow the spending restraints, or "caps" included in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act."

A surplus of fiction writers

(Michael Douglas, *The Beacon Journal* - August 15, 1999)

"Voinovich said it best as he watched his GOP congressional brethren fan out across the nation to hawk the cut to the masses. 'When you've got to go out and campaign to convince people they need a tax reduction, you've got problems.'

"As Ohio governor, Voinovich won acclaim by threatening to veto a bill permitting concealed weapons. GOP Chairman Bennett said last week that the party's internal polls show Voinovich still riding a remarkable 70 percent approval rating. George W. Bush should take a lesson: If you want to be president, campaign as though you are running for governor of Ohio."

Bush would do well to heed Buckeye wisdom on taxes, guns

(Joe Hallett, *The Columbus Dispatch*, August 22, 1999)

"As Ohioans know from his years as governor, when Sen. George Voinovich sinks his teeth into the pantleg of an issue, he's not going to let go. So it's gratifying that the freshman senator has chosen to bite into the federal budget process. This Washington ritual of pork-carving frenzy may be impossible to fix, but if anyone can hound Congress into reform, it may be Mr. Voinovich."

Sen. Voinovich's crusade: A saner budget

(*The Cincinnati Enquirer*, February 28, 2000)

"To give you an idea of how interested the Senator is in government, he actually wanted to chair the Management Subcommittee. Most of his colleagues consider the assignment a thankless chore - but not Senator Voinovich. In fact, he threw himself into his work - and one of the first things he did was invite AFGE into his office to hear the concerns and ideas of the dedicated Americans who make up the federal workforce.

"And let me tell you: he made it clear how highly he values federal employees and the important work they do each and every day.... As he told me, lawmakers and political appointees come and go. It's federal employees - or the A-Team" as he calls us - who make the federal government into the effective, efficient, and reliable provider of services that it is today."

From the remarks of Bobby Harnage, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, introducing Voinovich at a speech to AFGE members, Feb. 29, 2000

“Ohio’s junior senator knows well the benefits of a biennial budget, which he operated under as governor of this state for eight years. Members of the General Assembly do spend much of their time with the state budget during the first year of a legislative session, but are more or less free to turn to other matters the second year.

“And that’s the way it should be with Congress, where budget resolutions, authorizations, and appropriations now take about eight months a year, not counting any extra work required should the President wield his veto pen.”

Biennial is better

(*The Toledo Blade*, March 8, 2000)

“His vision of government is pretty simple—an entity that gives the people what they pay for.

“Voinovich is a political realist. He recognizes that lame answers or non-answers to these questions may not be enough to derail confirmation of a politically connected Cabinet or sub-Cabinet appointee who comes before the Senate with the backing of the new president. But Voinovich hopes that by signaling early that these questions will be asked, the president will seek out people who have real management skills – and maybe discourage those without them from embarking on Cabinet careers.

“Senators often move off Governmental Affairs as soon as their seniority permits. Voinovich says he’s staying put to keep nagging on these routine but vital matters. That’s good news.”

A sharp eye on civil service

(David Broder, *The Washington Post*, May 31, 2000)

*This column also appeared in the *Columbus Dispatch*, the *Plain Dealer*, the *Cincinnati Post*, the *Beacon Journal* and the *Toledo Blade*.

“Paying down the debt would bring big dividends, not least of them giving our children and grandchildren a better shot at continued prosperity. It would be terribly wrong, given the opportunity at hand, to saddle them with the bills that this generation has rung up.

“Voters should insist in this election year that Congress and the presidential candidates use the surplus wisely – not let it become an excuse for reckless government.”

Beware a spending orgy

(*The Cincinnati Post* - June 28, 2000)

“Senator George Voinovich, R-Ohio, earned a reputation for frugality during his years as Ohio governor. He’s taken that penny-grabbing attitude into the U.S. Senate, where it’s begun to pay dividends for all of us: “Logic dictates that the money we are spending for our debt interest payments could be better spent elsewhere,” Mr. Voinovich said, “and . . . the sooner we can pay down that debt, the sooner we will be able to use tax dollars where they are most needed.

“That Washington is beginning to get Mr. Voinovich’s message is good news indeed.”

Good News Monday: Paying Down the Debt

(*The Cincinnati Enquirer* - June 2000)

“For Ohio’s junior senator, it comes down to fiscal stability. He favors paying down the \$5.7 trillion national debt before cutting taxes or funding new government programs.

As it happens, Mr. Voinovich is one of the few Republicans with the wisdom and maturity to set aside

short-term political gain in favor of the greater good, plus the personal strength to buck the party leadership on such signature GOP issues as tax cuts.

“At the age of 64, Mr. Voinovich may never amass enough seniority in the hidebound Senate to make it into the ranks of committee chairman. But the leadership he has displayed during his first term, even though it has sometimes been the political equivalent of a cry in the wilderness, has been a pleasant surprise to those who were convinced that he would hew closely to the Republican line.

“We admire his independence and his courage in pointing out that fiscal stability, in reach if federal coffers overflow as predicted, is a greater legacy to hard-working Americans than some quick and dirty tax cuts.”

Voinovich’s Independence

(*The Toledo Blade* - July 20, 2000)

“Ohioans can take some pride that the single Republican exception to the Senate’s tax-cut stampede was Cleveland’s own George V. Voinovich. “We have an opportunity, with our strong economy and low unemployment, to make some headway in paying down our debt,” Voinovich reminded his colleagues in casting his lonely “no” vote.

“Such obstinacy does not endear Voinovich to the GOP leadership, but that bothers him not at all – nor should it. His colleagues would do well to emulate his courageous, single-minded pursuit of paying off the national debt. The country would be better off for it.”

Gridlock, Fortunately

(*Cleveland Plain Dealer* - July 20, 2000)

“George Voinovich joined the U.S. Senate 18 months ago, and hardly a day has gone by that the Ohio Republican hasn’t talked about the size of the national debt and the need to reduce it. He points to the annual interest payments that consume \$224 billion a year, or 13 percent of the federal budget. He insists that debt reduction in an era of surpluses should be the nation’s top fiscal priority.

“His thinking is sound. The unique thing about Voinovich is that he doesn’t just traffick in the staple of the Senate – talk – he casts the votes that carry political consequences. On Tuesday, the senator stood alone, unwilling to join the Republican parade for tax cuts, in particular, the elimination of the so-called marriage penalty, an item estimated to cost \$248 billion over 10 years. He was the only member of his party to vote no.

“George Voinovich really is alone, among Senate Republicans, in his insistence that Washington seriously address the country’s \$5.7 trillion national debt. And he wants to be vice president? Better to keep him in the Senate, where can he display uncommon leadership.”

Senator Lonely

(*Akron Beacon Journal* - July 20, 2000)

“Good for U.S. Sen. George Voinovich and U.S. Reps. John Kasich and Steve Chabot – all Ohio Republicans. These three congressmen put their money where their mouths are – more precisely, they withheld money from spending projects that would have benefitted their state.

“But in this case, they put their push to reduce the federal debt first.”

Ohio lawmakers help trim pork

(*Wapakoneta Daily News*, November 15, 2000)

NATIONAL SECURITY

The fundamental responsibility of the federal government is to protect its citizens and their interests from threats arising anywhere in the world. This year saw Senator Voinovich active on many fronts to advance this duty both internationally and in our own backyard.

Compensation for Cold War Era Defense Workers

Voinovich was a leading champion for Cold War-era defense workers wrongfully made ill as a result of federal government irresponsibility and negligence. For decades, the federal government denied that the work done at both private and federal government facilities resulted in any worker illnesses and maintained that all materials used to build our nuclear arsenal were safe for workers.

In March 2000, Voinovich took part in a full Government Affairs Committee hearing on the Department of Energy management of the gaseous diffusion plants in Portsmouth, Ohio and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. As a result of this hearing, the senator believed that the federal government had a responsibility to compensate workers who had placed themselves in harm's way for America's Cold War efforts. This hearing provided the catalyst for his Department of Energy/Beryllium Employee Compensation Bill, S. 2519.

During the Cold War, thousands of workers employed by the federal government and private firms helped build equipment and weapons to keep the United States secure. Unfortunately, the deadly nature of some of the materials used in these devices caused workers significant health problems, and in many cases even death. Senator Voinovich introduced S. 2519 to provide these workers with compensation due to their exposure to life-threatening materials. He also led the fight to include compensation language in the 2001 Department of Defense Authorization bill. After a contentious battle during conference committee, Voinovich prevailed and legislation was enacted to provide these workers \$150,000 in monetary compensation and lifetime health benefits for the illnesses related to exposure to these hazardous materials. Voinovich considers this one of his most significant accomplishments in the Senate to date.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base/ Department of Defense Workforce Reshaping

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Miami Valley community made their number one priority the need to address the future workforce management issues facing the civilian workforce at the Base. This was in line with Senator Voinovich's broader concerns that the federal government will face a wave of retirements of qualified personnel in the near future.

Towards this end, the senator introduced S. 2674, the Department of Defense Civilian Workforce Realignment Act. A revised version of the bill was included in the FY 2001 Department of Defense Authorization Bill and authorizes the Defense Department to offer voluntary separation incentive pay to 1,000 senior employees in FY 2001. With congressional authorization in the next 107th Congress, the complete workforce reshaping authorities provided by the original Voinovich-DeWine amendment for FY 2002 and 2003, including voluntary early retirement authority and voluntary separation incentive pay, would be available for 4,000 employees each year.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Capital Needs

With the understanding that research done at Wright-Patt is crucial to maintaining our nation's technological edge for our armed forces, Voinovich again joined DeWine and his House colleagues in limiting the impact budgetary cuts had on science and technology work completed at the Base. He also played a key role in providing funding for the construction of badly-needed capital improvements at the Base. For example, Senator Voinovich supported for the Miami Valley: \$11.8 million for simulation based acquisition research; \$3 million for aging avionics; \$10 million for engine sustainment; and \$5 million for advanced composite preform technology.

Improving Helicopter Safety

Voinovich has long been concerned with the safety of Ohioans serving their country in our nation's military and has been alarmed by statistics that indicate a large number of accidental deaths among Ohioans in the military are the result of helicopter crashes. His concerns over helicopter safety intensified with the tragic loss of an Ohioan in the May 5, 1999 helicopter accident in Albania during the Kosovo bombing campaign.

The senator raised his concerns directly with Defense Secretary William Cohen in a Pentagon meeting and insisted that questions from the families of those killed and himself be answered in a timely and complete manner. Through additional contact with Lieutenant General Jack Keane, Vice Chief of Staff, Army; Major General Richard Cody, (Former) Deputy Commander of Task Force Hawk, Albania; Brigadier General Gene LaCoste, Army Safety Center; and Major Mark Robinson, Army Safety Center and President of the Army's Accident Board, Army aviation safety was brought to the forefront. The Army explained that it had fully investigated the Albania crash and that it had taken a number of steps to address the shortfalls in training and maintenance that were discovered during the course of the investigation.

Ultimately, the Army, under the direction of Vice Chief Keane, established a Task Force to carefully examine Army aviation issues and recommend changes or remedies that would address outstanding readiness and safety issues. The Task Force's findings and recommendations have now been implemented. Voinovich will continue to monitor helicopter safety throughout the Defense Department to ensure that our men and women in uniform are provided the most reliable equipment, best training and maintenance possible.

Peace, Democracy, and Stability in Southeast Europe

Senator Voinovich has played a leading role in shaping and implementing our nation's policy towards the Balkans. Upon his arrival in the Senate, he immediately began working to promote democratic change in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY or Serbia). He understood that the removal of Slobodan Milosevic was crucial to the long-term peace and stability of southeast Europe, the last bastion of communist dictatorship on the continent. Senator Voinovich was beginning to make some progress with his colleagues and the Administration when the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) bombing began in response to Serb aggression in Kosovo. This action was vigorously opposed by Senator Voinovich.

During the conflict, the senator visited the Balkans region with several colleagues in an effort to better understand the political, military and humanitarian issues facing the region. After witnessing firsthand the suffering of the Kosovo refugees, the continued plight of refugees from the Bosnia wars, and the poor state of the economies in the region, Senator Voinovich began to work on humanitarian relief and long-term economic prosperity in the aftermath of the bombing campaign. He believes that the needs of all the people of the region must be dealt with before any substantial progress can be made on democratization or economic development. After this has been achieved, Senator Voinovich is convinced that the United States and our European allies must work to integrate the Balkans region into the broader European community.

Promoting Stability in the Region

To that end, he has been a strong advocate of the Stability Pact, an agreement between the U.S. and European nations to work cooperatively to promote regional peace, stability and prosperity with the goal of ultimately bringing the nations of the region into the European Union and NATO. Voinovich has established a close working relationship with senior State Department officials involved in the crafting and implementation of our nation's policies towards southeast Europe. His leadership has been crucial in establishing an environment conducive to communication between the Administration and the Serbian-American community. This has been especially important in the aftermath of the NATO bombing campaign of Serbia.

Voinovich successfully amended the FY 2000 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act to make it clear that the designation of Serbia as a terrorist state would be removed and its inclusion in the community of nations would begin once a democratic reform process has been completed which: (1) brings about a new government that respects the rights of all ethnic minorities; (2) is committed to the rule of law; and (3) respects the sovereignty of its neighbor states.

An American Commitment to Peace

On May 2, 2000, S. Res. 272, passed by unanimous consent. Sponsored by Voinovich, it expressed the Sense of the Senate that the United States should remain actively engaged in southeastern Europe to promote long-term peace, stability and prosperity; continue to vigorously oppose the brutal regime of Milosevic while supporting the efforts of the democratic opposition; and fully implement the Stability Pact. This laid the groundwork for the senator's successful efforts to oppose legislation that would require congressional approval for continued American military deployments in Kosovo. The senator urged the President to use his influence and encourage members within his party to also oppose the language. Senator Voinovich also spoke with Condoleezza Rice, the principle foreign policy advisor to Governor George W. Bush, on May 12, to encourage Governor Bush to stay silent or oppose the Byrd/Warner language. On May 16, the governor publicly announced his opposition to this measure and it was defeated.

This confirmation of an American presence in southeastern Europe provided leverage for the senator to influence members of the international community regarding the region's importance at two separate conferences (Canadian Interparliamentary and NATO).

Working Internationally

Senator Voinovich was also successful overseas promoting the importance of peace and stability in southeast Europe. At the Parliamentary Assembly meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the senator was able to craft and pass a resolution that called on all member nations to mobilize the necessary resources to assist the people of southeastern Europe with a special focus on responding to the infrastructure needs of the region. The resolution made it clear that infrastructure projects that would benefit the Serbian people, in addition to the people of the rest of the region, should not be immediately dismissed in the zeal to punish Serbia for its actions in Kosovo.

A Work's Conclusion—And Beginning: Freedom at Last

Those working for freedom for Yugoslavia saw their efforts come to fruition with the fall of the Milosevic regime. On October 10, the Senate passed S. Res. 365, sponsored by Voinovich and commending the people of Yugoslavia for their brave steps toward democratization by electing Vojislav Kostunica. The resolution also sent a clear signal to the people of Yugoslavia that the United States Senate intends to assist a democratic Yugoslavian government and help reintegrate the country into the global marketplace.

Lima Tank Plant

Senator Voinovich has worked closely with Senator DeWine and the other members of the Ohio congressional delegation to both maintain and expand the work being done at the Lima tank facility. Specifically, he was instrumental in ensuring that the Defense Department had the authority to enter into a multi-year procurement contract to build more M1A2 main battle tanks, the best tank in the world. He also played an important role in providing funding for the heavy assault bridge, the early versions of the advanced amphibious assault vehicle, and the next-generation self-propelled artillery systems, which are all produced at the Lima facility.

Comments on Voinovich's National Security Efforts

“Thank you for your leadership on the Kosovo issue. You set an example in bipartisanship for all of us. I hope I can reciprocate by using your example.”

Letter from Assistant Democratic Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), May 22, 2000

“I want to thank you personally for your vote on May 18 to strike the Byrd-Warner amendment, which would have set a de facto deadline for withdrawal of U.S. troops from the NATO-led mission in Kosovo. Your vote served important U.S. security interests in that troubled region.”

Letter from the President, May 26, 2000.

“Senator, thank you again. We are deeply appreciate for your energy, dedication and focus on what was truly a noble cause on behalf of the men and women who worked in the nation's nuclear factories and paid a price for that service.”

Letter from Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical & Energy Workers International Union, Oct. 17, 2000

“Because of your efforts, the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act grants the Department of Defense authority to use separation and early retirement incentives for workforce management. Your

initiatives were invaluable in this important work.”

Letter from Air Force Secretary Whit Peters, Oct. 19, 2000

“A majority of their fellow Republicans disagreed with them, but Ohio Sens. George Voinovich and Mike DeWine picked the right side in a crucial vote that could have cut off funds from U.S. troops in Kosovo by July 1, 2000.”

“As Voinovich suggested, U.S. troops play a key role in preventing a resumption of ethnic strife. It is not hard to imagine that, if U.S. troops depart and the rest of NATO follows suit, Albanians will try to drive out the remaining Serbs, provoking a reaction by well-armed Yugoslav forces.”

“Voinovich and DeWine read correctly what would be at stake if Congress forced a unilateral withdrawal by U.S. troops. So they joined 38 Democrats and 13 other Republicans to force a narrow defeat of a mischievous amendment.”

Blocking a rash move

(Cleveland Plain Dealer, May 22, 2000)

“Ohio Sens. Mike DeWine and George V. Voinovich who, along with U.S. Rep. Ted Strickland of Portsmouth, have been among the strong bipartisan supporters of compensation for stricken worker, have signed a letter along with 20 other senators urging the congressional conference committee to retain the compensation program.

“To have government blatantly lie about issues affecting its employees’ health and welfare is a travesty. To then have those who purport to represent the public in that same government attempt to do an end-run around compensation for such wrongs is reprehensible. Those who try it should be ashamed of themselves.”

Righting wrongs

Piketon workers deserve compensation

(The Columbus Dispatch, August 30, 2000)

“Sen. George V. Voinovich, R-Ohio, succeeded in raising the amount of federal compensation from the \$100,000 proposed by the Clinton administration, but was rebuffed in his effort to gain federal compensation for chemical exposure.”

Voinovich driving force in Piketon compensation bill

(Jon Riskind, The Columbus Dispatch, July 16, 2000)

“Sen. George Voinovich’s initiative in introducing a bill to compensate Americans who have suffered from illnesses resulting from their work on Cold War projects is as commendable as it ought to be bipartisan.”

Relief for beryllium victims

(The Toledo Blade, June 1, 2000)

FEDERALISM: MOVING GOVERNMENT CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE

As an official with both a state and local government background, Senator Voinovich has seen how the heavy hand of the federal government can impede the efforts of states and communities to serve their citizens in the way they know is best. When defining the role of government in our society, Voinovich believes we should ask two questions: "what should government do?" and "what level of government should do it?"

Blocking a Federal Grab of States' Tobacco Settlement Funds

As the states successfully settled a lawsuit with tobacco companies, the federal government began to eye the \$246 billion greedily. To block a federal grab of these hard-earned state monies, Senator Voinovich helped lead the effort to win passage of legislation preventing the federal government from seizing any portion of tobacco settlement funds awarded to states (Conference Report to the FY 1999 Supplemental Appropriations Bill). Securing these funds for Ohio and other states has been a priority of Senator Voinovich since serving as chairman of the National Governors' Association (NGA). In fact, preventing the states from losing any of these funds was the first piece of legislation that the senator introduced as a member of the U.S. Senate.

Additionally, through his role as the Senate liaison to state and local governments, a position for which he was hand-picked by Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS), the senator brought together a bipartisan coalition of Senate Members and officials to prevent the Administration from "recouping" any of the tobacco settlement funds from the states' Medicaid funds.

Voinovich's efforts to help lead the coalition against a federal grab of tobacco monies means states will be able to keep the funds their attorneys general worked so hard to win. For Ohio that means an expected \$10.1 billion over the next 25 years, starting with a \$400 million payment in FY 2000. These funds have already been allocated by the Taft Administration, with the lion's share earmarked for public health issues and school construction and renovation through FY 2012.

Grants Management Reform—Voinovich Carries On A Glenn Cause

Senator Voinovich continued the work which former Senator John Glenn (D-OH), Congressman Rob Portman (R-OH) and he began in the 105th Congress when he reintroduced S. 468, the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act. The legislation directs each federal agency to develop and implement a plan to streamline and simplify the application, administrative and reporting procedures for federal financial assistance programs.

Scores of federal programs, often administered by the same federal agency, have similar purposes but are subject to different application and reporting requirements. This bill is intended to make more efficient the grant application process, allowing those who serve their communities to focus on the job at hand, rather than an unnecessary amount of bureaucratic paperwork. The measure was approved by both the House and Senate and was signed by the President in November 1999, becoming the first bill sponsored by the senator to become law.

The First Meeting Between Senators and Governors

As a former governor and a current member of the Senate, Voinovich helped bring together the nation's governors and the United States Senate for their historic meeting. On February 28, 2000, the nation's governors met with the United States Senate for the first time to discuss how technology is affecting the federal/state relationship and how states and the federal government can forge a better partnership. As a recipient of the "Guardian of Federalism Award," it was only natural for Senator Voinovich to play a key role as a moderator and help set the tone for the meeting. Senators and governors seemed to agree that the dialogue begun in this meeting should continue. Senator Thompson, chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee, raised the prospect of holding hearings in the committee on the future of federalism in the new economy. Senator Thompson's staff indicated that he would like to include Senator Voinovich and his staff in the hearing process.

E-Commerce: Encouraging Growth and Protecting Taxpayers' Services

Voinovich supports promoting the growth of e-commerce and opposes taxes on Internet access. He has fought to maintain a level playing field between bricks and mortar companies and those doing business on-line, as well as to protect law abiding taxpayers from those who seek to avoid their legal obligation to pay sales taxes on electronic, on-line transactions.

Senator Voinovich successfully joined with four of his colleagues on a bipartisan basis to block efforts that would strip state and local governments of their authority to collect legally-owed sales tax on sales made over the Internet. This continuing effort is the most important and complex federalism issue to come before the Congress within the last several decades.

The senator cosponsored S. 2775, the Internet Moratorium and Equity Act, to extend the moratorium on Internet access fees while allowing states to develop a streamlined sales and use tax system. This legislation is the starting point for talks between those who favor state authority and those who favor federal preemption. Thanks in large part to the senator's efforts, no action to extend the moratorium without also addressing sales tax is expected to occur in the remainder of the 106th Congress, and negotiations will carry over into the 107th Congress.

Comments on Voinovich's Federalism Efforts

"You are such a stalwart friend and defender of the states' interest. May history adequately capture that fact. Thank you for being the log jam breaker on the Governors/Senators meeting. You made it happen."

Letter from Utah Governor Michael Levitt, March 6, 2000.

"...grateful lawmakers gathered on Capitol Hill to celebrate, even before the Senate had cast its final vote on the matter. And the man of the hour was the junior senator from Ohio.

"Among those lining up with a spoken pat on the back was Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi, who applauded his fellow Republican for staying out front on the issue.

‘Even though he’s only been here a short time, he has destroyed the old adage that the first couple of years you’re here, you should be seen and not heard,’ Lott said. ‘He’s been very loud, he’s been vociferous, he’s done a great job.’

States ensured of keeping tobacco settlement

GOP colleagues praise Sen. Voinovich for pushing to keep U.S. government from getting share of funds
(Akron Beacon Journal, May 21, 1999)

“As we started making everybody’s wish list, we had to ask one question: Is that money really going to be there,” (Ohio House Speaker) Davidson said. She credited Voinovich with bringing together Democrats and Republicans in Congress to bar the federal administration from taking the lion’s share of the money.”

Top Republicans celebrate victory in protecting tobacco settlement

They credit Voinovich with preventing the White House from eating into the state’s share
(The Columbus Dispatch, June 5, 1999)

“Voinovich is emerging as the leader of Republican legislators fighting the tax ban.”

“State officials will come here with their hat in their hand and their tin cup out” if sales tax revenue falls, Voinovich warned last week at news conference organized by an ally, Utah’s Republican Gov. Michael Leavitt. Voinovich and Leavitt want Congress to extend the moratorium now set to expire in 2001, only another year or two, just long enough for states to simplify sales tax rules and rates.”

“...Voinovich, a former governor of Ohio and mayor of Cleveland, has been working with another former governor, Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., to build a bipartisan support for eventually collecting sales tax on Internet purchases.”

Internet taxation issue warms up: Voinovich leads fight against no-tax forces

(Dayton Daily News, April 12, 2000)

AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS

Senator Voinovich is committed to policies that encourage a strong economy and help provide every American fulfill their potential. To this end he has focused on:

- Enhancing our systems of lifelong education
- Protecting our environment with solid measures grounded in sound science
- Reducing needless regulatory hurdles that cost us jobs
- Promoting free, fair trade
- Improving our transportation infrastructure

Education

Ed Flex: Cutting the Ties that Bind State Education Efforts

As governor of Ohio, Voinovich was a national leader in the fight for enhanced flexibility in managing federal education funds. He continued this fervor as a freshman senator and saw its culmination in April 1999, as the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999 (Ed-Flex) was signed into law. Senator Voinovich, as Majority Leader Lott's liaison to state and local government officials, persuasively argued that this bill should be one of the Senate's top priorities coming out of the impeachment process.

This legislation allows states to target federal dollars to education priorities and initiatives identified by school districts in their state and reduce paperwork requirements. Ed-Flex was authorized initially under the 1994 education bill, Goals 2000, as a six-state demonstration project (with Ohio as an initial state), and was expanded to include an additional six states in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education title of the 1996 Omnibus Appropriations Act. The Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999 expands the Ed-Flex program to the remaining 38 states.

As chairman of NGA, then-Governor Voinovich was instrumental in urging the President, during a meeting at the White House, to expand Ed-Flex (then in only 12 states) to the remaining 38. Also as chairman of NGA, Governor Voinovich was active in supporting the bill's passage in the Senate, working with Senator Jim Jeffords (R-VT) during committee consideration of the legislation. As senator, he continued to be a leader in ensuring the swift passage of this key legislation for the states and participated in the bill signing ceremony at the White House. As a result of expanding authorization to all 50 states, one additional state has already been approved and six other states await approval.

Keeping a Promise: Funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

During debate on the FY 2001 Budget Resolution, Senator Voinovich offered and the Senate passed an amendment stating that it is the Sense of the Senate that before additional funding on new education programs be spent; the Senate should first fulfill its commitment to fully fund IDEA. Established in 1975, IDEA is the federal commitment to provide schools 40 percent of the funding to educate special needs children. To date, the federal government has provided less than 12 percent of its obligation and attempts to fulfill the government's promise have been circumvented because Congress and the President have initiated numerous other education programs that spend an inordinate amount of money, instead of keep promises.

Furthering his commitment to fully funding IDEA, Voinovich offered, and the Senate passed, an amendment to the FY 2001 Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill that would allow local education agencies to use \$2.7 billion of new federal funding in the appropriations bill on IDEA, should they choose, rather than mandated class size reductions or school construction. Fully funding IDEA will ultimately allow states and localities to utilize their tax revenues to take care of local responsibilities, such as school construction, class size reduction, purchase of new textbooks and educational technology, instead of the federal IDEA shortfall.

Relocating the River Valley Schools, Marion

Findings of harmful chemicals in the soil where the River Valley Schools are presently located ignited efforts to construct new buildings. The school site is a former Army facility that was turned over to the school district decades ago.

Working with Senator DeWine and the Taft Administration, Senator Voinovich was able to win the support of Secretary of the Army Caldera, as well as his fellow senators, for \$15 million in Army funding for a new middle and high school at another location. Additional funds come from the State of Ohio and the school district. After the schools are relocated, the current site will be cleaned to an industrial standard and the property reused for commercial development. Never before has the Army provided such funding. The action will be very cost-effective and provide substantial assistance to the district's efforts to replace the school buildings.

New Access to Higher Ed: District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Program

The special status of the District of Columbia has left high school students with limited choices for higher education. Prior to this program, District students applying to state schools would be obliged to pay out-of-state tuition. As chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, Senator Voinovich was instrumental in initiating the D.C. Tuition Assistance Program, which provides the youth of the District with in-state tuition access to colleges and universities throughout the nation. Voinovich authorized an annual budget of \$17 million for the program. For the second year in a row, the program will be fully funded, allowing the students of the District greater access to higher education.

The results have been outstanding. More than 3,300 students have applied for the tuition assistance, 50 percent more than expected in the first year. Of these 3,300, 40 percent of the students are seniors in the D.C. public school system, 11 percent are seniors in private schools, and 49 percent are currently enrolled in college. Although most of the students will be attending local colleges this year, Mayor Williams expanded the program to a national level last May.

Crossing Agency Lines to Serve Our Youngest Better: Collaboration Between the Departments of Health and Human Services and Education

Modeled after the successful Families and Children First Initiative he introduced as Ohio's governor, which facilitated inter-agency cooperation to improve family support services, Voinovich has encouraged federal agencies to cooperate better in human service efforts, especially early childhood development.

Voinovich held hearings in his Subcommittee on the Oversight of Government Management to better coordinate efforts between the departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education (ED). The hearings initiated a 40-person task force made up of members from HHS and ED to focus on improving collaboration between the two agencies. The task force credited the work of the senator and completed a report to Senator Voinovich's Subcommittee in September 2000 outlining the three areas where HHS and ED have decided to focus their attention in order to increase collaboration: Early Childhood Research and Performance Measures, School-Age Care and After-School Programming and Serving Children with Disabilities. It is the hope that this may provide a model for increased inter-agency collaboration.

Environment

Water Resources Development Act of 2000

As chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works' Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Senator Voinovich was the principle author of the biennial Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), S. 2796. It was the first bill he managed on the Senate floor, successfully steering it towards passage.

WRDA 2000 authorized \$6.7 billion in waterway projects nationwide, including flood control damage, improved navigation, hurricane protection and storm erosion control, and enhanced environmental restoration. In addition to addressing nationwide needs, the bill also contained critical water development necessities in Ohio, including Ohio River lock and dam projects, protection and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat along the Ohio River, Great Lakes fishery and ecosystem restoration, Cuyahoga River bulkhead study, among others. The Senate is currently preparing to conference with the House on WRDA 2000. The Ohio projects are:

Greenup Lock and Dam: Authorize the expansion of Greenup Lock and Dam, Ohio River, Kentucky and Ohio to allow increased traffic, at a total cost of \$175,000,000. The costs of construction of the project are to be paid one-half from amounts appropriated from the general fund of the Treasury and one-half from amounts appropriated from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund subject to a final report of the Chief of Engineers not later than December 31, 2000.

John Myers Lock and Dam: Authorize the expansion of John Myers Lock and Dam, Ohio River, Indiana and Kentucky to allow increased traffic, at a total cost of \$182,000,000. The costs of construction of the project are to be paid one-half from amounts appropriated from the general fund of the Treasury and one-half from amounts appropriated from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund subject to a final report of the Chief of Engineers not later than December 31, 2000

Ohio River Restoration Program: Program for protection and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat on the Ohio River to consist of programmatic authority for projects in accordance with a comprehensive plan. Subject to a final report of the Chief of Engineers by December 31, 2000. Total cost of \$307.7 million with a federal share of \$200 million and a non-federal share of \$107.7 million.

Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration: Development of a plan for the comprehensive management of Great Lakes fisheries and establishment of a program for projects to restore the fisheries, ecosystem and beneficial uses of the Great Lakes. Management plan and projects at 65 percent federal and 35 percent non-federal. Appropriation authorization of \$300,000 for fiscal year 2001 for management plan and \$8,000,000 per year for fiscal years 2002-06 for federal share of projects.

Great Lakes Dredging Levels Adjustment: Authorization for adjustment of maintenance depths to accommodate lower water conditions.

Great Lakes Remedial Action Planning Technical Assistance and Sediment Remediation

Technology Demonstration: The Water Resources Development Act of 1990 authorized the Corps to provide technical assistance to State and local governments for areas of concern identified in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978. WRDA 96 amended the provision to authorize no fewer than three demonstration projects for sediment remediation. WRDA 2000 revises the cost sharing for the Remedial Action Plans and demonstration projects from 50-50 to 65-35 and raises the annual authorized appropriation from \$5 million to \$10 million from 2001 through 2010.

Great Lakes Sediment Transport Models: WRDA 1996 authorized the Corps to develop tributary sediment models for each major river system depositing material into the Great Lakes. A total of \$1 million has been appropriated to date for six models. A total of 25 rivers have been identified as high priority. WRDA 2000 extends this authorization to \$5 million per year 2008 and adds a requirement for 50-50 cost sharing.

Cuyahoga River Bulkhead System Study: Authorizes a study to evaluate the structural integrity of the bulkhead system to include design analysis, plans and specifications and cost estimates. Authorizes \$500,000 for the study and provides for a non-federal share of 35 percent.

Muskingum County, Ohio: Provides that the Secretary of the Army shall conduct a study of the project for improvement of the quality of the environment, Dillon Reservoir Watershed Improvement, Licking River Corridor Stabilization and Reservoir Dredging, Muskingum County, Ohio and if the Secretary determines that a project is appropriate, may carry out the project under section 1135(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986.

Erie County, Ohio: Provides that the Secretary of the Army shall conduct a study of the project for improvement of the quality of the environment, Sheldon's Marsh State Nature Preserve Habitat Restoration, Erie County, Ohio and if the Secretary determines that a project is appropriate, may carry out the project under section 1135(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986.

Tuscarawas County, Ohio: Provides that the Corps shall conduct a study of the project for aquatic ecosystem restoration, Huff Run, Tuscarawas County to determine if a project is appropriate, and carry it under Section 206 of the WRDA 1996.

Hocking County, Ohio: Provides that the Secretary of the Army shall conduct a study of the project for aquatic ecosystem restoration, Long Hollow Mine Drainage Abatement, Hocking County, Ohio and if the Secretary determines that a project is appropriate, may carry out the project under Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996.

Highland County, Ohio: Provides that the Secretary of the Army shall conduct a study of the project for aquatic ecosystem restoration, Rocky Fork Lake, Clear Creek Flood Plain Restoration, Wetland Enhancement and Sediment Management, Highland County, Ohio and if the Secretary determines that a project is appropriate, may carry out the project under Section 206 of the WRDA 1996.

Ottawa County, Ohio: Provides that the Secretary of the Army shall conduct a study of project for protection, restoration and creation of aquatic and related habitat using dredged material, East Harbor State Park, Wetland Creation and Channel Dredging, Ottawa County, Ohio and if the Secretary determines that a project is appropriate, may carry out the project under Section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended.

Duck Creek, Ohio: Provides authority for a study of the feasibility of flood control, environmental restoration and aquatic ecosystem restoration measure in the Duck Creek Watershed.

Fremont, Ohio: Provides authority for a feasibility study of water supply and environmental restoration at the Ballsville Dam on the Sandusky River at Fremont, Ohio.

WRDA 1999

Senator Voinovich cosponsored the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which was signed into law in August 1999. As Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee, and a member of the conference committee, Senator Voinovich worked to ensure the legislation included provisions to decrease flood, storm damage and navigation risks throughout Ohio. Ohio projects are:

Toussaint River Dredging: The Toussaint river contains unexploded ordnance from testing by the U.S. Army on the Erie Proving Grounds during World Wars I and II. The ordnance is potentially dangerous and needs to be removed. In addition, the river also needs to be dredged to allow a continued flow of boat traffic. While the initial dredging will provide a short-term solution, the Corps of Engineers needs authorization to conduct a study to determine a long-term solution to keeping the mouth of the river open to boat traffic.

Voinovich also was successful in convincing bill managers to include in the FY 2000 Defense Authorization bill a provision calling for the Secretary of Defense to report no later than April 1, 2000, long term solutions and costs related to the removal of ordnance in the Toussaint River. The Secretary also must evaluate any ongoing use of Lake Erie as an ordnance firing range and justify the need to continue such activities.

Dike 14 in the Cleveland Harbor: The Corps of Engineers will be turning over Dike 14 to the State of Ohio. However, the dike is in need of repairs estimated to cost between \$15-\$25 million. The

Corps will conduct a study to determine the feasibility of undertaking repairs before it is turned over to the state.

East Lake and Vermillion: This study will determine the best ice retention structure for Vermillion and Chagrin to address local flooding.

Toledo Harbor and Woodtick Peninsula, Michigan: Toledo needs a disposal structure to clear dredged material from the Toledo Harbor. Ohio and Michigan have a joint proposal to dispose of this material as a breakwall in front of the Woodtick Peninsula in Michigan to recreate the marshes of the peninsula for waterfowl. The Corps will conduct a study to determine the feasibility of using this dredged material for a breakwall.

Directive Language on the Great Lake States: Great Lake states have been concerned that the Corps of Engineers currently dumps dredged sand in the middle of the lake as the cheapest method of disposal. Ohio, as well as other Great Lake states, would prefer that the dredged sand be disposed of near shore to help preserve the beaches. Language has been included directing the Corps of Engineers to work with state and local governments to maximize beneficial reuse of dredged sand.

Holes Creek, Ohio Local Flood Protection Project: The provision amends an existing WRDA authorization to cap at 1996 levels the amount of money paid by the cities of West Carrollton and Moraine, and Miami Township toward the construction of an Army Corps of Engineers flood control project along Holes Creek. The language also lets the Corps of Engineers reimburse the local governments for the money they have spent above the 1996 amounts.

Mill Creek: The ever increasing urbanization of the Mill Creek watershed is placing more development in flood hazard areas and accelerating runoff which further intensifies flooding problems. Language included in WRDA will reduce flood damage from Mill Creek in Butler and Hamilton Counties, and help restore the ecosystem in and around the Mill Creek area.

Additionally, WRDA contained the John Glenn Great Lakes Basin Project in response to the concerns that Great Lakes users had in providing direction, coordination and maximizing the many activities of the federal and state government and various Native American tribes. Among the provisions of this study were:

Strategic Plans: The Corps is to conduct a comprehensive study to ensure the future use, management, and protection of water resources and related resources of the Great Lakes basin. This effort will be conducted with extensive coordination with states, tribes, user groups and other federal agencies to identify water resources needs of the Great Lakes basin that are not being addressed by existing programs.

Great Lakes Biohydrologic Information: The Great Lakes Commission identified the need for an inventory of information that can be used by states to monitor diversions and consumptive uses of Great Lakes waters. The Corps will provide a report to Congress by February 2001 that compiles

the information, analyzes it for gaps or inconsistencies, and makes recommendations regarding resources and funding needed to improve the information base.

Sault Lock: Included was a provision, waiving the non-federal interest payments on the project, easing the way to construct a new, second lock at Sault Saint Marie between Lake Superior and Lake Huron. Estimated to cost \$70 million when completed, the new lock will allow for increased shipping traffic on the Great Lakes. Prior to its inclusion, the cost of the lock had proved cost prohibitive to individual states, but waiving the non-federal interest payments has now eliminated concerns of individual states and allowed the project to go forward.

Restoring Florida Everglades

After substantial dike and canal-building projects in the mid-1900's began draining the Everglades to fuel development in South Florida, this national treasure shrank to half its former size and suffered significant environmental damage. Environmentalists have for years been calling for the restoration of this national treasure.

As chairman of the subcommittee with oversight of the Army Corps of Engineers, the agency responsible for overseeing the restoration, Voinovich worked with the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Sierra Club to guide the steps towards its \$7.8 billion restoration in what will be one of the most ambitious public works projects ever undertaken by the Corps.

The administration's initial Everglades proposal deviated substantially from the Army Corps of Engineers' and the Senate Committee on Environmental and Public Works' policies and would have undermined effective congressional oversight of the Corps program. Throughout the negotiations, the senator provided the discipline needed to keep the Everglades Restoration Plan moving forward while achieving consistency with the criteria that applied to all the projects in WRDA 2000. The final bill, passed as part of WRDA 2000, incorporated innovative waterworks technologies and will help preserve and restore an ecosystem unique on the planet.

The senator also wrote language in the bill bringing attention to the potential environmental damage to the Everglades and Biscayne National Parks if the Homestead Air Force Base is redeveloped as a commercial airport, urging careful consideration of the environmental impact of any redevelopment plans.

Protecting a Great Lakes Relic: Old Woman Creek

Voinovich offered an amendment to the Estuary Habitat Restoration Partnership Act of 1999 that would enable Old Woman Creek to access additional federal resources for estuary habitat restoration activities. The amendment also will allow Old Woman Creek to compete for federal funds to address an invasive species problem that threatens to alter the characteristics of the estuary. If federal funding for this purpose is ultimately approved, the Reserve hopes to re-establish the native species of the estuary to help protect the waterfowl and fish species habitats there. Voinovich's successful inclusion of Old Woman Creek in the bill made it possible to later extend benefits to other Great Lakes estuaries with an expanded authorization.

Cincinnati Air Quality Redesignation

In June 2000, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed the final rule redesignating Cincinnati as in attainment of the one-hour ozone standard. Cincinnati was the last metro area in Ohio to reach this milestone. As governor of Ohio, Voinovich became involved in the rulemaking process to redesignate Cincinnati as in attainment and in January 2000, he wrote EPA Administrator Carol Browner urging her to act quickly to finalize the redesignation rule. He also raised the issue when EPA officials testified before the Clean Air Subcommittee this year on the agency's FY 2001 budget request.

Cleveland's Doan Brook

Wastewater and storm water from the communities surrounding the Doan Brook watershed in Cleveland flow through an extensive, but aging, combined sewer network. The water is treated at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's Waste Water Treatment Plant on the shore of Lake Erie. Historically, this area has been subject to significant urban flooding, which presents a risk to public health and safety, including exposure to cryptosporidium mold, which is known to be particularly harmful to infants.

Working with Senator DeWine, Senator Voinovich successfully secured \$1.5 million in the Senate Veterans Affairs/HUD Appropriations Bill for FY 2000 that will help alleviate sanitary sewer contamination in this area. The funding will assist long-term improvements to tributary sewers and the Doan Brook drainage system in order to reduce public health hazards, especially to children, caused by frequent flooding of basements and recreational areas in this urban area.

Regulatory Reform

Regulatory Accountability for Federal Agencies

On May 9, 2000, the Senate passed S. 1198 by unanimous consent, the Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act (formerly the Truth in Regulating Act), which Senator Voinovich cosponsored. The House passed the Senate version of the bill on October 3, clearing the way for the President's signature on October 17, 2000. S. 1198 provides Congress with an objective evaluation of agency cost-benefit analyses by allowing committees to call on the General Accounting Office (GAO) to conduct an independent evaluation of the agency analysis (required under Clinton's Executive Order 12866) of any proposal or final economically significant rule to ensure the accuracy of federal cost benefit analyses. Independent evaluations introduce a needed objective check of the accuracy of the agency analyses.

Regulatory Right-to-Know

In addition, the FY 2001 Treasury/Postal Appropriations Conference Report contained S. 59, the Regulatory Right to Know Act that also was cosponsored by Senator Voinovich. This legislation would require the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to submit an annual report to Congress on the total costs and benefits of federal regulations. It would require OMB to present an accounting statement and associated report containing: 1) an estimate of the total costs and benefits of federal regulations and paperwork in the aggregate; by agency, agency program, and program component; and by major rule; 2) an analysis of the impacts of federal regulations on a wide variety of affected areas; 3) an analysis of any overlaps or duplications among regulatory programs; and 4) recommendations for

reform.

Protecting Food Safety

As a result of a hearing conducted by Senator Voinovich's Governmental Affairs Subcommittee in July 1999 on federal oversight of egg safety, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued new regulations requiring labeling of egg cartons to warn consumers of the potential danger of undercooked eggs, and requiring that eggs be refrigerated at 45 degrees Fahrenheit or cooler at the retail level. FDA announced the issuance of the regulations on the day of the hearing, although the agency had the authority to issue them since the Egg Products Inspection Act was amended in 1991.

Furthermore, the President's Council on Food Safety developed a strategic plan to further improve the safety of shell eggs and processed egg products. The strategic plan will address controlling Salmonella and other pathogens, and will suggest further steps to better coordinate federal oversight of egg safety from the farm to the table. The hearing clearly demonstrated the ability of Congressional oversight to influence federal policy.

Expanding Markets for American-made Goods

Protecting Our Vital Relationship with Canada

Since he was Governor of Ohio, Senator Voinovich has been a leader in promoting the ease of commerce between the United States and Canada. In the Senate he took a key role in winning passage of H.R. 4489 to reform immigration data-collecting requirements (Section 110) impractical for the high volume of Canadian cross-border traffic, which threatened this essential economic and cultural relationship.

Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China: A Massive New Opportunity

Along with the vast majority of the Senate, Senator Voinovich voted to confirm Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) with China, clearing the measure for the President's signature on October 10. Passage of PNTR now sets the stage for China's accession into the World Trade Organization (WTO). Once China officially becomes a member of the WTO, it must comply with all rules of the organization, reduce its current trade barriers significantly, and open its markets to more products from the United States and the world.

Transportation

Protecting State Highway Funding

In an effort that saved the Highway Trust Fund \$20.5 billion and Ohio \$650 million in lost revenue, a Sense of the Senate amendment co-sponsored by Voinovich was adopted to the Senate Budget Resolution by a vote of 66-34. It emphasized the continued use of federal fuel taxes for the construction and rehabilitation of our nation's highways, bridges and transit systems and blocked attempts to deny states adequate funding for highways. The provisions laid out in the \$218 billion 1998 highway bill were maintained guaranteeing that states will receive back at least 90.5 cents of every dollar in federal gasoline taxes they generate. Voinovich has been involved in this matter since he was Governor and former

chairman of the National Governors' Association.

Comments on American Competitiveness Efforts

“...thank you for your efforts to ensure that the redevelopment of the Homestead Air Force Base proceeds in a manner that is consistent with the restoration of the Everglades ecosystem.

“As you have recognized, developing a mayor commercial airport at Homestead...could jeopardize the major Everglades restoration initiative that Congress is now considering.

“Again, the Sierra Club appreciates your efforts on this important issue. We look forward to working with you in the future.”

Letter from Sierra Club, Sept. 13, 2000

“On behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of the National Audubon Society, I want to thank you for your leadership on restoring America’s Everglades.

“We were pleased to work with you and your staff to achieve the Senate’s decisive action on this legislation...”

Letter from Audubon Society, Sept. 26, 2000

“Your diligent care and commitment to a strong restoration bill helped to make the ‘Restoring the Everglades, An American Legacy’ Act a sound piece of legislation that all stakeholders could support.”

Letter from World Wildlife Fund, Oct. 2, 2000

“Thus far, given the limited amount of time he has spent in Washington, Voinovich has picked and chosen surprisingly well. He helped push through Ed-flex legislation that gives local school districts more leeway in how they spend federal dollars, earning him a trip to the White House for the signing ceremony.”

“Regulatory reform is also part of the agenda. Voinovich and others want to make sure that federal regulations don’t extend beyond legislative authority and do what they’re supposed to do.”

Sen. Voinovich showing D.C. he’s no rookie

(The Cincinnati Post, May 8, 1999)

“With \$8 billion at stake, the president has the power to persuade almost any state or local system to his way of thinking. The question is, should he? Absolutely not, answers Sen. George V. Voinovich. Clinton leads the country, the former governor of Ohio explains, not a national school board. We agree.”

Reining in federal expansion

(Cleveland Plain Dealer, May 25, 1999)

“I am writing to express my appreciation for your support and exceptional leadership as a member of the Senate, with particular emphasis on your work with the recent DC-Tuition bill. Because of your due diligence with this critical legislation, many college-bound students living in the District will be able to attend the college of their choice.”

Letter from Howard University President H. Patrick Swygert, May 27, 1999

“Sen. George Voinovich won praise on these pages and elsewhere recently for following his own course on gun control. The Ohio Republican defied many in his party and the gun lobby. He supported

measures that would make it more difficult to purchase a handgun.

“As notable his performance was, Voinovich has been even more impressive in dealing with the steel industry’s request for federal assistance in its battle against foreign imports.”

“Voinovich recognizes the pinch that steelmakers faced. He supports legislation that would permit the feds to respond more quickly and flexibly to foreign dumping schemes.

“The loan program would amount to aiding selectively an industry that enjoyed record levels of production last year. The quota bill would violate international trade rules that play to the strength of the American economy. Thankfully, George Voinovich won’t pander.”

“Steely Voinovich: The Ohio senator refuses to play the protectionist”

(Akron *Beacon Journal*, June 22, 1999)

“Alice Rivlin, who chairs the federally appointed District financial authority, called Voinovich ‘extremely helpful, more than anyone I remember in that position. He has relevant experience and seems eager to share it.’”

“Voinovich Trying to Help Capital Make Comeback”

(Cleveland *Plain Dealer*, July 4, 1999)

“The legislation these leaders crafted shepherded to unanimous support in the House and Senate gives DC high school graduates the same educational opportunities available to students in every state, and it offers many a chance in life they wouldn’t have had otherwise.”

Open Letter from DC College Access Program Executive Director Argelia Rodriguez

(Washington *Post*, Nov. 4, 1999)

“The idea of a college access measure arose from a group of business leaders headed by Washington Post publisher Donald Graham and Lucio Noto, chief executive of Mobil Oil. During a session of extreme partisanship, it moved through both houses with bipartisan support under the leadership of Mr. [Rep. Thomas] Davis [R-Va.] and Mrs. [Del. Eleanor Holmes] Norton [D-D.C.] in the House and Ohio Republican George Voinovich in the Senate.”

Education Milestone for D.C.

(Washington *Post*, Nov. 17, 1999)

“To their credit, some Republicans, including Ohio’s Sen. George V. Voinovich and Rep. Paul Gillmor of Old Fort, have refused to play this purely political game.”

“Voinovich correctly pointed out that, because gasoline taxes pay for billions of dollars in highway projects each year, a reduction in those taxes would cancel or, at the least, postpone road repairs and construction.”

Follywood, D.C.: Faulty gas-tax-cut plan is GOP production

(The *Columbus Dispatch*, April 2, 2000)

“Fortunately, there are cooler heads in Congress, one of which belongs to Sen. George Voinovich, who, as Ohio’s former governor, knows well what will happen to highways and other transportation projects if the nation starts down the bumpy road of tax repeal.”

Hold the line on gas tax

(The Toledo Blade, March 30, 2000)

“Not surprisingly, Voinovich takes the practical approach. On Thursday, he joined Sen. John Warner, a Virginian Republican, and Sen. Max Baucus, a Montana Democrat, to voice their bipartisan opposition to repealing the 4.3-cents-per-gallon tax levied in 1993 for deficit reduction. All three understand the cost if the tax is repealed.”

“Cost? Oh, motorists might save a few cents. What they would lose is money for highway repair and construction. In 1997, Congress altered the purpose of the tax, dedicating the 4.3 cents to highway use only.”

“Voinovich knows deficient roads exact their own toll.”

All that gas tax: The difference that 4.3 cents can make

(Akron *Beacon Journal*, March 27, 2000)

“Ohio Sen. George Voinovich has rightly labeled this a “huge unfunded mandate.” Earlier this month he called on Congress to “live up to the promises” regarding disabilities education before considering expensive new spending programs on education. We couldn’t agree more.”

“As Congress revises the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and makes difficult decisions on how to spend money on education, it should follow Voinovich’s recommendation for setting priorities. Before Congress starts establishing new entitlements and redistribution schemes, it should fulfill the promises it has already made.”

An old, unfunded mandate

(*The Cincinnati Post*, April 4, 2000)

“It would only compound the tragedy if, after hacking and draining the Everglades for decades, America does nothing to salvage what remains of a national treasure. U.S. Senate approval of a \$7.8 billion plan to save the area deserves swift House concurrence.”

“Sen. George Voinovich and U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula from Canton should be commended for raising questions about exactly where the funding will do. Senator Voinovich doesn’t want it to pay for more sprawl in Florida and neither do we.”

“Mr. Voinovich commented that U.S. taxpayers are not going to pay for Florida’s urban growth. He was right on target.”

Saving the Everglades

(*The Toledo Blade*, October 7, 2000)

“The (Water Resources Development Act) bill was passed by the Senate 85-1, with an able assist from Ohio Sen. George Voinovich, who once blocked it because he quite rightly opposed the building of a commercial airport just 10 miles away from the Everglades, fearing it would pollute the very spot seeks to save.”

“The Everglades, once more than 8 million acres, has shrunk to half that size. Nearly 70 plant and animal species face extinction.”

“Perhaps the Corps of Engineers can give what it took away. The House of Representatives must give it a chance.”

Revitalizing the Everglades

(Cleveland *Plain Dealer*, October 5, 2000)

“It’s obvious what’s happening, Mr. Voinovich said. ‘The utilities in the East, with retail wheeling (deregulation) going in, they want to jack up the prices here as much as they can to strengthen their competitive position instead of cleaning up their own houses,’ he said. The EPA is their enforcer.”

“That’s no business for a federal agency to engage in. We all want clean air and clean water. We also want rules that are just as clear and fair.

Warped rules foul fairness. *Pollution: Clean up EPA*

(Cincinnati Enquirer, March 1, 2000)

“Redevelopment of Homestead Air Reserve Base must be consistent with the objectives of South Florida’s proposed \$7.8 billion Everglades-restoration and water-supply plan, Sen. George Voinovich and Rep. Ralph Regula, both Ohio Republicans, recently told the White House. They’re right. More than that, they hold the federal purse strings.”

Consistent objectives

(The Miami Herald, April 25, 2000)

“Two politicians from outside Florida have pointed out what too many politicians from inside Florida refuse to acknowledge: The plan to turn the former Homestead Air Force Base into a jetport contradicts the plan to restore the Everglades.”

“Why, Sen. Voinovich and Rep. Regula ask, should Congress give money to help the Everglades if Florida intends to harm the Everglades with the Homestead projects? Good question. The best answer is to find some other use for the air base properly.”

This idea isn’t flying

(The Palm Beach Post, April 28, 2000)

ADDITIONAL WORK

Family-Friendly Television Programming

Senator Voinovich, with Congressman Rob Portman, sponsored a resolution recognizing the importance of expanding family-friendly television programming. Specifically, the resolution commended the efforts of the Forum for Family Friendly Programming in encouraging more family-friendly content during prime time. The resolution also supported efforts to encourage television networks, studios and the production community to produce more quality family-friendly programs. The resolution passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate.

Getting What They're Owed: A Strong Child Support System for Children

Senator Voinovich was instrumental in securing the passage of legislation extending the deadline for the creation of centralized state child support collection and disbursement systems as mandated under the Welfare Reform Act of 1996. The measure gave states more time to implement the computer systems necessary to provide residential parents with the funds they need to raise their children and spared Ohio a \$117 million penalty just as it was working to implement its own system.

Preventing Marijuana Legalization

Senator Voinovich was vocal in his opposition to the District of Columbia's Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative. Towards that end, the senator introduced a joint resolution, S. J. Res 35, that called for Congress to block the initiative. He fought vigorously as chairman of the subcommittee with oversight for the District of Columbia to see that this Schedule I controlled substance not be condoned through use of federal funding. Congress prohibited the initiative in the District's FY 2000 budget.

Reflections on Reviving Cleveland: Public/Private Partnerships to Rebuild D.C.

The District of Columbia, in many ways, parallels Cleveland's depression during the late 1970s and early 1980s. As mayor in the '80s, Voinovich helped turn the city around through the help of strong and innovative partnerships between government and the private sector. He used this experience to advise Washington, DC Mayor Anthony Williams in his efforts to rejuvenate the city, even extending an invitation for him to visit Cleveland, meet with Mayor Michael White and see firsthand the positive fruits of these joint public/private revitalization efforts.

Cooperative Agreements Among Washington, DC Law Enforcement Agencies

Due in part to continued oversight pressure from Senator Voinovich's Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia, the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia and the Metropolitan Police Department have begun the process of signing cooperative agreements with the various law enforcement agencies in the District of Columbia to better coordinate law enforcement in the city. In October 2000, the Metropolitan Police Department and the Amtrak Police signed the first cooperative agreement in the District, and numerous other agencies are expected to follow suit.

The D.C. Performance Accountability Plan Amendments Act of 2000

In September 2000, Voinovich introduced the District of Columbia Performance Accountability Plan Amendments Act, to bring the District government closer to performance budgeting by tying together the District's budget with its performance measures. The bill also allows the District government to focus on achieving a single level of performance rather than working to reach multiple performance targets, as required in the original legislation. Senator Voinovich worked with Mayor Williams and Senator Durbin (D-IL) to introduce the bill, which was passed by unanimous consent in both houses of Congress

Awards for the First Session of the 106th Congress

National Leadership Awards

April 29, 2000 • Council of State Governments' 1999 *Guardian of Federalism Award*

Civic & Charitable Awards

1999

- Merit Award, Combined Federal Campaign

Family & Children Awards

April 22, 1999

- ℄ The Beech Acres Children's Advocate Award during the Beech Acres 150th Anniversary Gala, Cincinnati, Ohio

Education Awards

February 1999

- ℄ Children's Choice Award, National Catholic Educational Association

Veterans Awards

May 31, 1999

- ℄ Humanitarian Award - The Chapel of Four Chaplains

Memberships

August 12, 1999

- ℄ Inducted into The Ohio State Fair Hall of Fame, Columbus, OH

Awards for the Second Session of the 106th Congress

Civic & Charitable Awards

November 4, 2000

- American Red Cross - Cleveland Chapter's *2000 Red Cross Community Leader Award*.

June 26, 2000

- Spirit of God Award from Bishop Anthony Pilla and J. Thomas Mullen of the Catholic Charities at the opening of the Fatima Family Center.

February, 2000

- The Vietnamese Community of Greater Cleveland, "For Your Outstanding Support to The Vietnamese Community in Cleveland."

Economic Development Awards

October 30, 2000

- National Association of Manufacturers presented the "NAM Award for Manufacturing Legislative Excellence".

October 11, 2000

- Watchdogs of the Treasury presented the "Golden Bulldog Award" for his activities supporting realistic federal spending and controlling runaway debt.

September 21, 2000

- National Federation of Independent Business names Senator Voinovich "Guardian of Small Business" for his voting record on behalf of small-business owners.

August 10, 2000

- Taxpayers for Common Sense rate Senator Voinovich's voting record on cutting wasteful spending and promoting fiscal responsibility.

April 27, 2000

- The National Association of Railroad Passengers presented Senator Voinovich with the George Falcon Golden Spike Award for his working "hard to secure for states the right to invest their federal transportation funds on intercity passenger rail projects."